

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, when the leader of the free world came to this Chamber in January to deliver his State of the Union address, he described the axis of evil governments. He mentioned them by name: Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

Since then, some people have criticized the speech. In fact, one of President Bush's predecessors said the speech was "over simplistic" and "counterproductive."

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Iran spends millions of dollars financing the murder of innocent civilians and violence in the Middle East. The Government of Iraq has used chemical weapons to kill its own citizens and has invaded its neighbors. North Korea is the only country I know of today that has concentration camps where people enter and never come home from. They literally starve their citizens.

If that is not evil, I do not know what is. Years ago another President referred to the Soviet Union as an evil empire, and some of us remember the Soviet refusenik Natan Sharansky. He was in a gulag when President Reagan gave that speech. Mr. Sharansky told me, when I met him, that news of that speech spread like wildfire through the Soviet gulags. Not until then did they realize that a leader in the West understood the nature of communism.

#### STOP CORPORATE EXPATRIATES

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in the 6 months since the devastating attacks of September 11, we have seen some of the most heartwarming images of our American family pulling together to support one another. While Congress grapples with the tough decisions on how to pay for this war against terrorist and enhanced homeland security and other pressing national priorities, one member of the American family is losing its commitment. I quote, "Maybe patriotism needs to take a back seat to improve our earnings."

Mr. Speaker, these were the disturbing words of one aggressive accountant a mere 3 months ago urging her corporate clients to sneak out of the U.S. in the dark of night to avoid paying income tax. For a mere \$27,000 to rent a post office box offshore, one U.S. corporation has avoided \$40 million a year in corporate income taxes. If these were individuals doing this, the American taxpayers would be outraged.

Mr. Speaker, join me in shutting down this loophole exploited by corporate expatriates before one more American company decides to shelve the Stars and Stripes to save some money on the bottom line by avoiding corporate income tax.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO CATHY LAIRD

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in deep humility to join in the shock and the grief of the citizens of Shelby County, Indiana, to pay tribute to the passing of a leader, a wife, a mother, and a distinguished local citizen, Cathy Laird, who passed away at the age of 37 yesterday following the complications from an automobile accident. Cathy Laird was not only a distinguished public servant who would have, without term limits, been permitted to run for her third consecutive term as county clerk, she was also the devoted wife of Roger, the devoted mother of Mary, 9, and Emily, 5. Emily was in the car when the accident occurred; and characteristic of Cathy, she looked after Emily making sure Emily got to her appointment while she was taken to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Roger and all family and friends to not grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. Cathy had the hope that is now realized, and we will pray for her husband, her children, her family, her friends, and a grieving community who take comfort in the faith, hope and love of Cathy Laird.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE BUDGET

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, Social Security has been a successful program. It has helped millions of seniors out of poverty. Our seniors are facing a dilemma, one that threatens their security and their trust. We must fight to preserve our Social Security trust fund and honor the country's commitment.

The President's budget does not honor the commitment to our seniors, and in turn fails all Americans. Now is the time for us to focus on a long-term budget plan that will recover as the economy recovers, returning us to an era where we can fully protect and even strengthen our Social Security trust fund. We need to recommit to the idea of Social Security surplus dollars only for Social Security and paying down the national debt.

The President's new budget raids the Social Security surplus to pay for government programs, not just 1 year but 10 years. Our seniors deserve better than gimmicks and budget tricks. They need us to lead and fight for the preservation of a historic program and for the needs of seniors. We ask Congress to reconsider their budget, reconsider their tax cuts, and reassume the responsibility, and that is to pay down our debt and take care of our seniors.

#### ARMY NEEDS ADEQUATE RESOURCES

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the enduring commitment the Army provides to our Nation. Throughout our history, we have relied on the Army to provide decisive force to defend America and her interests.

In the aftermath of September 11, the Army again answered the call by effectively leading efforts to support victims and secure our borders. They continue to coordinate efforts to protect our Nation throughout this country through homeland defense.

Last week General Shinseki testified about the need of the Army to increase its end strength. I believe we would do well to heed his advice.

Today America only boasts the ninth largest army in the world. Of the top eight, six are potential adversaries. We must work to increase the Army force structure. It should be obvious that we must maintain stability through strong ground forces.

Mr. Speaker, we rely on the Army to win wars and maintain the peace. Now more than ever, we must give these men and women adequate resources to meet these requirements.

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#### INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to talk about Ludwig Koons. Ludwig is still being held illegally by his mother in Italy.

He was born in New York City in 1992. When he was a year old, his mother, Ilona Staller, took him to Rome. After promising a quick return, Ilona delayed her return to the United States after Mr. Koons had purchased tickets for his family to return to New York. But in December of 1993 he learned that Ilona had left their son with unknown third parties and traveled to Ecuador to participate in an erotic pornographic show.

Mr. Koons quickly went to Rome to find his son. He found Ludwig confused, disoriented and abandoned by his mother, left in the care of a foreigner who spoke neither Italian nor English. Ludwig's housing environment was filled with pornography and was physically dangerous due to construction materials left strewn about. Neither the Italian nor the United States governments are helping to correct this situation.

Mr. Speaker, we would not want our own children in this kind of an environment. We should not want it for any American child. It is time to bring our children home.